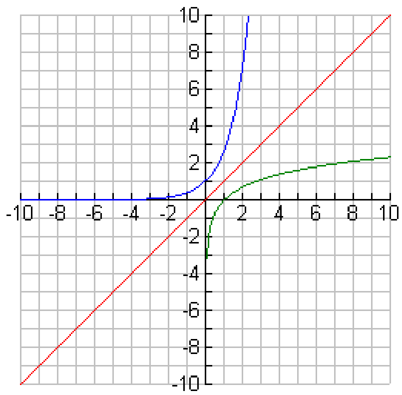
4.14

Logarithmic Functions and Solving

The inverse of an exponential function $f(x) = b^x$ with base b is the logarithmic function with base b, $f^{-1}(x) = \log_b x$.



The domain of the logarithm function is $x > 0$.

Domain of a logarithm function = range of the exponential function = $(0,\infty)$ and the range of a logarithm function = domain of exponential function $(-\infty,\infty)$.

Changing Between Logarithmic and Exponential Form

If $x > 0$ and $0 < b \neq 1$, then **$y = \log_b(x)$ (read as "y is the logarithm to the base b of x")**

if and only if $b^y = x$.

Evaluating Logarithms

Examples:

b) $\log_3 \sqrt{3} = \frac{1}{2}$, *because* $3^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{3}$

c) $\log_5 \frac{1}{25} = -2$, *because* $5^{-2} = \frac{1}{5^2} = \frac{1}{25}$

d) $\log_4 1 = 0,\ \textit{because}\ 4^0 = 1$

e) $\log_7 7 = 1,\ \textit{because}\ 7^1 = 7$

Basic Properties of Logarithms

For 0 < b ≠ 1, x > 0, and any real number y,

- $\log_b 1 = 0$ because $b^0 = 1$.
- $\log_b b = 1$ because $b^1 = b$.
- $\log_b b^y = y$ because $b^y = b^y$.
- $b^{\log_b x} = x$ because $\log_b x = \log_b x$.

Evaluating Logarithmic and Exponential Expressions

Examples:

a) $\log_2 8 = \log_2 2^3 = 3$

b) $\log_3 \sqrt{3} = \log_3 3^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2}$

c) $6^{\log_6 11} = 11$

Basic Properties of Common Logarithms

Let x and y be real numbers with x > 0.

$\log 1 = 0$ because $10^0=1$

$\log 10 = 1$ because $10^{1} = 10$

$10^{\log x} = x$ because $\log x = \log x$

$\log 10^y = y$ because $10^y = 10^y$

Evaluating Logarithmic & Exponential Expressions—Base 10

Examples:

$a)\ \log 100 = \log_{10} 100 = 2,\ \textit{because}\ 10^2 = 100$

b) $\log \sqrt[5]{10} = \log 10^{\frac{1}{5}} = \frac{1}{5}$

c) $\log \frac{1}{1000} = \log \frac{1}{10^3} = \log 10^{-3} = -3$

d) $10^{\log 6} = 6$

Evaluating Common Logarithms with a Calculator

Examples:

a) $\log 34.5 = 1.537\ldots,\ \textit{because}\ 10^{1.537\ldots} = 34.5$

b) $\log 0.43 = -0.366\ldots,\ \textit{because}\ 10^{-0.366\ldots} = 0.43$

c) $\log(-3)$ is undefined because there is no real number y such that $10^y = -3$.

Solving Simple Logarithmic Equations

Examples: Solve each equation by changing it to exponential form.

a) $\log x = 3$
Change to exponential form, $x = 10^3 = 1000$

b) $\log_2 x = 5$
Change to exponential form, $x = 2^5 = 32$

Basic Properties of Natural Logarithms

Let x and y be real numbers with x > 0

ln 1 = 0 because e^{0} **=** 1.

ln e = 1 because e^{1} = e.

$e^{\ln x}$ = x because ln x = ln x.

ln e^{y} = y because $e^{y} = e^{y}$.

Evaluating Logarithmic & Exponential Expressions Base – e

Examples:

a) $\ln \sqrt{e} = \log_e \sqrt{e} = \frac{1}{2}$, *because* $e^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{e}$

b) $\ln e^5 = \log_e e^5 = 5$

c) $e^{\ln 4} = 4$

Evaluating Natural Logarithms with a Calculator

Examples:

a) $\ln 23.5 = 3.157\ldots$, *because* $e^{3.157\ldots} = 23.5$

b) $\ln 0.48 = -0.733\ldots$, *because* $e^{-0.733\ldots} = 0.48$

c) $\ln(-5)$ is undefined because there is no real number y such that $e^y = -5$.